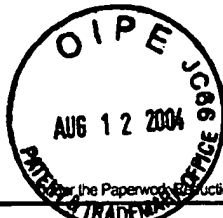


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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT (Use as many sheets as necessary)		Application Number	10/024,221-Conf. #2150		
		Filing Date	October 30, 2001		
		First Named Inventor	Robert E. Simonson		
		Art Unit	3731		
		Examiner Name	K. T. Truong		
Sheet	1	of	4	Attorney Docket Number	101896-0275 (DEP-5240)

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code ² (if known)			
✓	AA	US 2001/0012942	08-09-2001	BRADLEY T. ESTES	
	AB	US 2001/0027320	10-04-2001	RICK SASSO	
	AC	US 2002/0011135	01-31-2002	WAYNE HALL	
	AD	US 2002/0016592	02-07-2002	CHARLES L. BRANCH	
	AE	US 2002/0022764	02-21-2002	MAURICE M. SMITH	
	AF	US 2002/0049368	04-25-2002	STEPHEN RITLAND	
	AG	US 2002/0058948	05-16-2002	YVAN ARLETTAZ	
	AH	US 2002/0077632	06-20-2002	PAUL M. TSOU	
	AI	US 2002/0088695	06-27-2002	CARSTEN NEUMANN	
	AJ	US 2002/0143235	10-03-2002	JAMES J. PAGLIUCA	
	AK	US 2003/0083689	05-01-2003	ROBERT E. SIMONSON	
	AL	US-2003/0220689	11-27-2003	STEPHEN RITLAND	
	AM	US-2003/0236447	12-25-2003	STEPHEN RITLAND	
	AN	US-2004/0106997	06-03-2004	ROBERT E. LIEBERSON	
	AO	RE 36,020	12-29-1998	ROBERT R. MOORE	
	AP	US-569,839	10-20-1896	J. T. R. ROELOFFS	
	AQ	US-3,470,872	10-07-1969	H. R. GRIESHABER	
	AR	US-3,875,595	04-08-1975	EDWARD C. FRONING	
	AS	US-4,232,660	11-11-1980	ROBERT L. COLES	
	AT	US-4,440,168	04-03-1984	MARK G. WARREN	
	AU	US-4,481,947	11-13-1984	MARTIN H. CHESTER	
	AV	US-4,545,374	10-08-1985	ROBERT E. JACOBSON	
	AW	US-4,573,448	03-04-1986	PARVIZ KAMBIN	
	AX	US-4,617,922	10-21-1986	CALVIN GRIGGS	
	AY	US-4,620,460	11-04-1986	FRANK GONZALES, JR.	
	AZ	US-4,686,972	08-18-1987	KENNETH Z. KURLAND	
	BA	US-4,736,738	04-12-1988	MAIEJ LIPOVSEK	
	BB	US-4,747,394	05-31-1988	ROBERT S. WATANABE	
	BC	US-4,798,111	01-17-1989	CHARLES D. CHEESEMAN	
	BD	US-4,803,976	02-14-1989	ROBERT FRIGG	
	BE	US-4,817,587	04-04-1989	WOODROW W. JANESE	
	BF	US-4,862,891	09-05-1989	STEVEN M. SMITH	
	BG	US-4,882,958	11-28-1989	RICHARD L. MCNEELY	
	BH	US-5,035,232	07-30-1991	THEODOR LUTZE	
	BI	US-5,048,379	09-17-1991	ROBERT E. GRAMERA	
	BJ	US-5,052,373	10-01-1991	GARY K. MICHELSON	
	BK	US-5,084,043	01-28-1992	PETER S. HERTZMANN	
	BL	US-5,098,435	03-24-1992	DENIS P. STEDNITZ	
	BM	US-5,133,720	07-28-1992	ALEX M. GREENBERG	
	BN	US-5,135,525	08-04-1992	JUERGEN BISCOPING	
	BO	US-5,148,724	09-22-1992	GARY R. REXFORD	
	BP	US-5,158,543	10-27-1992	HARRISON M. LAZARUS	
	BQ	US-5,195,541	03-23-1993	THEODORE G. OBENCHAIN	
	BR	US-5,275,611	01-04-1994	ROBERT S. BEHL	
	BS	US-5,279,567	01-18-1994	PASQUALE CIAGLIA	
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Examiner Signature	K. T. TRUONG			Date Considered	12/10/04



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		Filing Date	October 30, 2001
		First Named Inventor	Robert E. Simonson
		Art Unit	3731
		Examiner Name	K. T. Truong
Sheet	2	of	4
		Attorney Docket Number	101896-0275 (DEP-5240)

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	BV	US-5,312,360	05-17-1994	ROBERT S. BEHL	
	BW	US-5,356,413	10-18-1994	HAROLD M. MARTINS	
	BX	US-5,363,841	11-15-1994	WESLEY L. COKER	
	BY	US-5,431,651	06-11-1995	E. MARLOWE GOBLE	
	BZ	US-5,439,464	08-08-1995	DAVID E. SHAPIRO	
	CA	US-5,512,038	04-30-1996	DARRELL D. O'NEAL	
	CB	US-5,601,550	02-11-1997	RENE D. ESSER	
	CC	US-5,687,739	11-18-1997	WILLIAM E. MCPHERSON	
	CD	US-5,716,415	02-10-1998	ARTHUR D. STEFFEE	
	CE	US-5,743,853	04-28-1998	ROBERT A. LAUDERDALE	
	CF	US-5,746,720	05-05-1998	ALBERT E. STODDER, JR	
	CG	US-5,766,221	06-16-1998	THEODORE V. BENDEREV	
	CH	US-5,792,044	08-11-1998	KEVIN THOMAS FOLEY	
	CI	US-5,816,257	10-06-1998	ALBERT K. CHIN	
	CJ	US-5,851,207	12-22-1998	MORRIS DANIEL CESARONE	
	CK	US-5,882,344	03-16-1999	ALBERT E. STODDER, JR.	
	CL	US-5,885,300	03-23-1999	YASUAKI TOKUHASHI	
	CM	US-5,891,147	04-06-1999	PETER A. MOSKOVITZ	
	CN	US-5,895,352	04-20-1999	JEFFREY B. KLEINER	
	CO	US-5,895,390	04-20-1999	MICHAEL C. MORAN	
	CP	US-5,897,593	04-27-1999	DOUGLAS W. KOHRS	
	CQ	US-5,899,901	05-04-1999	JEFFREY KEITH MIDDLETON	
	CR	US-5,902,231	05-11-1999	KEVIN THOMAS FOLEY	
	CS	US-5,913,818	06-22-1999	FRED H. CO	
	CT	US-5,928,139	07-27-1999	TIBOR B. KOROS	
	CU	US-5,944,658	08-31-1999	TIBOR B. KOROS	
	CV	US-5,954,635	09-21-1999	KEVIN THOMAS FOLEY	
	CW	US-5,954,671	09-21-1999	MICHAEL J. O'NEILL	
	CX	US-5,967,970	10-19-1999	MICHAEL A. COWAN	
	CY	US-5,971,920	10-26-1999	GUNTHER PETER NAGEL	
	CZ	US-5,976,146	11-02-1999	AKIHISA OGAWA	
	DA	US-5,996,447	12-07-1999	DAVID BAYOUTH	
	DB	US-6,007,487	12-28-1999	KEVIN THOMAS FOLEY	
	DC	US-6,063,088	05-16-2000	CHARLES J. WINSLOW	
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	DG	US-6,113,602	09-05-2000	PAUL M. SAND	
	DH	US-6,120,434	09-19-2000	SHUICHI KIMURA	
	DI	US-6,120,506	09-19-2000	DOUGLAS W. KOHRS	
	DJ	US-6,152,871	11-28-2000	KEVIN T. FOLEY	
	DK	US-6,156,006	12-05-2000	IVO BROSENS	
	DL	US-6,162,170	12-19-2000	KEVIN T. FOLEY	
	DM	US-6,176,823	01-23-2001	KEVIN T. FOLEY	
	DN	US-6,197,002	03-06-2001	FRANCIS PETERSON	
	DO	US-6,206,822	03-27-2001	KEVIN T. FOLEY	
	DP	US-6,206,826	03-27-2001	HALLETT MATHEWS	
✓	DQ	US-6,206,885	03-27-2001	FATHALI GHAREMANI	

Examiner Signature	K. T. TRUONG	Date Considered	12/14/02
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				First Named Inventor	Robert E. Simonson
				Art Unit	3731
				Examiner Name	K. T. Truong
				Attorney Docket Number	101896-0275 (DEP-5240)
Sheet	3	of	4		

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	DR	US-6,214,004	04-10-2001	WESLEY L. COKER	
	DS	US-6,217,509	04-17-2001	KEVIN T. FOLEY	
	DT	US-6,224,597	05-01-2001	WESLEY L. COKER	
	DU	US-6,224,608	05-01-2001	MICHAEL CICCOCLELLA	
	DV	US-6,245,072	06-12-2001	THOMAS ZDEBLICK	
	DW	US-6,258,097	07-10-2001	KEVIN COOK	
	DX	US-6,267,763	07-31-2001	SALVATORE CASTRO	
	DY	US-6,270,498	08-07-2001	GARY KARLIN MICHAELSON	
	DZ	US-6,283,966	09-04-2001	RODNEY L. HOUFBURG	
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	EE	US-6,348,058	02-19-2002	TONY MELKENT	
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	EH	US-6,371,968	04-16-2002	TAKAHIRO KOGASAKA	
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	EJ	US-6,428,472	08-06-2002	KENT HAAS	
	EK	US-6,461,330	10-08-2002	KUNIHICO MIYAGI	
	EL	US-6,520,907	02-18-2003	KEVIN T. FOLEY	
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	EQ	US-D399,955	10-20-1998	TIBOR KOROS	
	ER	US-D436,513	01-23-2001	MASAHICO YAMAKAWA	
	ES	US-D438,074	02-27-2001	DONALD E. MARR	
	ET	US-D466,766	12-10-2002	GARRY MARTY	
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Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document		Publication Date	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ²
		Country Code ² -Number ³ -Kind Code ⁴ (if known)		MM-DD-YYYY			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	EV	WO 02/060330 A1		08-08-2002	RITLAND		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	EW	WO 00/18306 A1		04-06-2000	RITLAND		

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NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS			
Examiner	Cite	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book).	
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				Filing Date	October 30, 2001
				First Named Inventor	Robert E. Simonson
				Art Unit	3731
				Examiner Name	K. T. Truong
Sheet	4	of	4	Attorney Docket Number	101896-0275 (DEP-5240)

Initials	No. ¹	magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T ²
✓	EX	WOLFHARD CASPAR, <i>Technique of Microsurgery, in MICROSURGERY OF THE LUMBAR SPINE: PRINCIPLES AND TECHNIQUES IN SPINE SURGERY</i> 105-122 (Aspen Publications, 1990)	
	EY	Web page, http://www.brainlab.com , April 2, 2002	
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✓	FG	WILTSE, "New Uses and Refinements of the Paraspinal Approach to the Lumbar Spine", Spine, Vol. 13 Number 6 1988, pp. 696-706	

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STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

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Complete if Known

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Filing Date	October 30, 2001
First Named Inventor	Robert E. Simonson
Art Unit	3731
Examiner Name	K. T. Truong
Attorney Docket Number	101896-275 (DEP-5240)

Sheet 1 of 1

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Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code ² (if known)			
		US 2002/0123668	09-05-2002	STEPHEN RITLAND	
		US 2003/0083688	05-01-2003	ROBERT E. SIMONSON	
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		Country Code ³ -Number ⁴ -Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				

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NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T ²
		Sofamor Danek, "MED MicroEndoscopic Discectomy System" (1997)	

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Examiner Signature	K. T. TRUONG	Date Considered	12/1/02
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